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précédentes la société impériale était en crise d'indiscipline," and that the chief result would be Rochefort and his *Lanterne*, in which "la société décadente du Second Empire avait rencontré un publiciste à son image" (pp. 400, 401).

And so it was: constantly deceived and constantly disappointed Napoleon maintained to the end views that abroad proved impracticable in the presence of the purposes of Cavour and Bismarck and at home illusory in the face of a declining respect for the empire. But more serious than Napoleon's incapacity and weakness were the divisions everywhere prevailing among the Emperor's advisers. A French Bismarck with so pliable a character to control might have altered essentially the situation though he could not have saved it. But there existed no master mind. The Austrophiles and the Prussophiles, the Catholics and the Italianissimes, the war party and the peace-lovers, conservatives and liberals, all pulling in different directions. Study the debates on the army measures of 1867-1868 (Book XXXIV.), and contrast the plans of the Emperor with the hysterical objections of Marshal Randon, the searching criticisms of Trochu, the hostile attitude of the speakers in the Corps Législatif, and the eventual mutilation of the measures. And so goes the tale through the entire volume: a tale of inefficiency, disunity, selfish ambition, and conceit.

M. de la Gorce has never told a better story or a more scholarly one. We are not surprised that the work has been crowned by the French Academy, receiving the *grand prix* Gobert, and has already passed into a second edition. If Bonapartism were not already dead in France, the vogue of so unvarnished an account of Napoleonic failure would certainly hasten its demise and end what little life remained in the Napoleonic legend of to-day.

CHARLES M. ANDREWS.

Modern Spain, 1788-1898. By MARTIN A. S. HUME. [The Story of the Nations.] (New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons. 1900. Pp. xxii, 574.)

THIS book may fairly be numbered among the better volumes of the useful but unequal series to which it belongs. Mr. Hume is exceptionally equipped by long residence in the peninsula and by family connections to write the history of modern Spain and he has produced a readable narrative which bears frequent witness to his first-hand knowledge. Although in the main he devotes himself to giving an account of the political vicissitudes of the Spanish people, he does not neglect economic aspects of the period nor fail to pass running comment upon literature and art. One cannot help feeling, however, as he runs upon statements that a moderate degree of specially directed investigation would show to be either hazardous or positively erroneous, that the author, relying with confidence upon his familiarity with Spain and his general reading, has taken his task a little too lightly. The following examples may be given

as illustrations. On p. 42 it is said that "the population of Spain had steadily declined from the time of the Goths, when it was very numerous, down to the first quarter of the eighteenth century." As the figures given for the population of Spain are all guesswork before the census of Castile in 1594, and equally so for Spain outside of Castile until 1797, so confident an assertion of the steady decline of the population of the peninsula for over a thousand years is, to say the least, hazardous and misleading. On p. 6 the well-known prophecy of Aranda in regard to the future greatness of the United States is quoted and it is said to be from a letter which Aranda wrote to Florida Blanca. This document according to its title was a memorial submitted to the King and not a letter to Florida Blanca. That it is of doubtful authenticity Mr. Hume is evidently unaware; yet Ferrer del Rio discussed it in his "*Historia del Reinado de Carlos III*" and reached the conclusion that it is not genuine. He was unable to find the document in the archives and the views presented in it are inconsistent with authentic expressions of Aranda. Baumgarten in his "*Geschichte Spaniens*" is also positive in his rejection of it for the same reasons. The account on p. 54 of the treaty of St. Ildefonso (1801) gives the idea that it was the result of folly rather than of practical compulsion.

In matters relating to American history Mr. Hume's expressions show both haste and unfamiliarity. We are told (p. 446) that Spain had a little war (1861) "in Santo Domingo, where the Spanish half of the Negro Republic desired annexation to Spain," and that Grant (p. 492) "resolutely refused" to recognize the Cubans as belligerents because being "now firmly fixed in his new term of office" he had no "desire to strengthen the Democratic party by adding Cuba to the agricultural states." No doubt Mr. Hume recollects reading something like that in a Spanish newspaper thirty years ago. It is tolerably well known that Grant wanted to recognize the Cubans as belligerents and was with difficulty dissuaded from doing so. The phrases, "the revolt of the English-American Colony" (p. 171), and "the United States legislature" (p. 559), evince a haste that cannot tarry until the precise word presents itself.

EDWARD G. BOURNE.

The Constitutional History of the United States. By FRANCIS NEWTON THORPE. (Chicago: Callaghan and Co. 1901. Three Vols., pp. xxi, 595, xix, 685, xvi, 618.)

ACCORDING to the preface, this work, "the labor of half a life time," traces the "origin, progress and development of constitutional government in America from the close of the French wars in 1765, to the year 1895"; but as would be expected by one familiar with Mr. Thorpe's previous book, *The Constitutional History of the American People*, the terms of the title bear a peculiar significance. In reality the work is far less broad in scope, being concerned not so much with constitutional